College Student Internet Setup Timeline

Your Complete 4-Week Checklist for Moving to College

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🗓 4 Weeks Before Move: Research & Planning

Research Providers

☐ Get exact address of dorm/apartment (building, unit number) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Check if dorm includes WiFi (contact housing office) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ If off-campus, research providers available at address - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Enter address on provider websites to check availability - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Make list of 3-5 available providers (Xfinity, Spectrum, AT&T, etc.) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

Compare Plans & Pricing

☐ Compare internet speeds (50-1000 Mbps options) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Compare monthly prices ($30-80/month typical) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Check for student discounts (ask with .edu email) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Look for no-contract plans (month-to-month flexibility) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Check installation costs ($0-100, often free) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Check equipment rental fees ($10-15/month for modem/router) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Look for promotions (first month free, gift cards, etc.) - LOW PRIORITY

Determine Your Needs

☐ Calculate how many roommates will share internet - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Determine if you'll game online (need 300+ Mbps) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Determine if you'll stream 4K video (need 200+ Mbps) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Consider Zoom classes (need 50+ Mbps per person) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Decide on budget ($15-25/person when split with roommates) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

> 💡 **Pro Tip:** Use our provider comparison tool to see all options at your address side-by-side. Or call 888-330-3368 for personalized recommendations.

☑ 3 Weeks Before Move: Choose Provider & Plan

Select Provider & Plan

☐ Choose internet provider (Xfinity, Spectrum, AT&T, etc.) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Choose internet speed plan (50-1000 Mbps) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Confirm plan has no annual contract (month-to-month) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Confirm plan has unlimited data (no caps) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Calculate total monthly cost (internet + equipment rental) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

Coordinate with Roommates

☐ Discuss internet plan with roommates - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Agree on speed and budget - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Decide who will sign up for service (one person's name) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Agree on how to split monthly cost - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Set up payment method (Venmo, PayPal, etc.) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

Prepare to Order

☐ Have exact move-in date ready - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Have exact address ready (building, unit, zip code) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Have phone number and email ready - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Have payment method ready (credit/debit card) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Check if you need parent/guardian as co-signer - MEDIUM PRIORITY

> 💡 **Pro Tip:** Most providers don't require credit check for students. Spectrum and Xfinity are great no-credit-check options.

📞 2 Weeks Before Move: Order Internet Service

Place Your Order

☐ Call provider or order online - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Provide move-in address and date - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Choose self-installation (free) or professional ($75-100) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Schedule installation for move-in day or day after - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Ask about student discounts (mention .edu email) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Ask about promotions (gift cards, first month free) - LOW PRIORITY

☐ Confirm no annual contract required - **HIGH PRIORITY**

Equipment Decisions

☐ Decide: rent modem/router ($10-15/mo) or buy your own ($50-150) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ If renting, confirm equipment is included in order - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ If buying own, research compatible modems/routers - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Order your own modem/router if buying (Amazon, Best Buy) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Buy ethernet cables if needed for gaming/streaming ($5-15) - LOW PRIORITY

Confirm Order Details

☐ Write down order confirmation number - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Save confirmation email - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Write down installation date and time window - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Write down provider support phone number - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Confirm first bill date and amount - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Set calendar reminder for installation day - **HIGH PRIORITY**

💡 **Pro Tip:** Self-installation saves $75-100 and is easy. Most students can do it in 15-30 minutes following our setup guide.

📦 1 Week Before Move: Confirm & Prepare

Confirm Installation

☐ Call provider to confirm installation appointment - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Verify installation date and time window - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ If self-install, confirm equipment shipment tracking - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Verify equipment will arrive before move-in day - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ If professional install, confirm someone will be home - **HIGH PRIORITY**

Prepare Apartment/Dorm

☐ Locate internet cable outlet (coaxial, phone, or fiber) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ If no outlet, notify provider (may need installation) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Identify central location for router placement - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Verify power outlets available near internet outlet - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Clear space for modem and router setup - MEDIUM PRIORITY

Gather Information & Tools

☐ Print or save setup instructions from provider - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Bookmark our internet setup guide for reference - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Have provider support number saved in phone - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Have order confirmation number accessible - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Charge laptop/phone for setup day - LOW PRIORITY

💡 **Pro Tip:** If equipment hasn't shipped yet, call provider immediately. Don't wait until move-in day to discover problems.

🏠 Move-In Day: Set Up Internet

Professional Installation

☐ Be home during installation time window - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Have ID and order confirmation ready - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Show technician where you want router placed - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Watch technician setup (learn for troubleshooting) - LOW PRIORITY

☐ Test connection with technician before they leave - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Get WiFi network name and password from technician - **HIGH PRIORITY**

Self-Installation

☐ Unbox modem and router equipment - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Connect internet cable to modem (coaxial/phone/fiber) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Plug modem into power outlet - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Wait 2-3 minutes for modem to boot up - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Connect ethernet cable from modem to router - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Plug router into power outlet - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Wait 2-3 minutes for router to boot up - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Find WiFi name and password on router label - **HIGH PRIORITY**

Test & Connect Devices

☐ Connect phone to WiFi network - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Test internet by opening website - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Run speed test (Speedtest.net or Fast.com) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Connect laptop to WiFi network - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Connect gaming console/devices to WiFi - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Connect smart TV/streaming devices - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Share WiFi password with roommates - **HIGH PRIORITY**

> 💡 **Pro Tip:** If internet doesn't work after setup, call provider support immediately. Most issues are fixed in 5-10 minutes over the phone.

🎯 First Week After Move: Optimize & Secure

Secure Your Network

☐ Change default WiFi network name (SSID) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Change default WiFi password (use strong password) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Change router admin password - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Enable WPA3 or WPA2 security (not WEP) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Disable guest network (if not needed) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

Optimize Performance

☐ Place router in central location (not in corner/closet) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Elevate router (place on desk/shelf, not floor) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Test WiFi speed in all rooms - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Use ethernet cable for gaming PC/console (if possible) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Enable 5GHz band for faster speeds (if available) - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Update router firmware to latest version - MEDIUM PRIORITY

Manage Account & Billing

☐ Create online account with provider - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Set up autopay (save $5-10/month) - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Set up paperless billing - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Download provider mobile app - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Verify first bill amount and due date - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Set calendar reminder for bill due date - MEDIUM PRIORITY

Document Everything

☐ Save WiFi name and password in secure location - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Save router admin login credentials - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Write down account number and customer service number - **HIGH PRIORITY**

☐ Take photo of equipment serial numbers - MEDIUM PRIORITY

☐ Keep equipment boxes (for moving out later) - LOW PRIORITY

💡 **Pro Tip:** Set up autopay to save $5-10/month and never miss a payment. Most students forget to pay the first bill!

📋 Quick Reference Summary

Timeline	Key Tasks
4 Weeks Before	Research providers, compare plans, determine needs
3 Weeks Before	Choose provider and plan, coordinate with roommates
2 Weeks Before	Order service, schedule installation, decide on equipment
1 Week Before	Confirm appointment, prepare space, gather tools
Move-In Day	Complete installation, connect devices, test speed
First Week	Secure network, optimize performance, set up billing

Need Help with Your College Internet Setup?

Our internet experts help college students find the perfect internet plan and guide you through every step of the setup process.

📞 **Call 888-330-3368**

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